

by revealing to us the true purpose of the Redemption.

There are in our age two great classes of men who differ in their apprehension of the design of God in the redemption of mankind. The first are those who say we need no redemption at all, believers in human nature alone, who look to this world and to its scientific attainments as sufficient for all the perfection of mankind and society: men who, with the most accurate ideas on business, on commercial transactions, on law, etc. who declare that man has within himself sufficient natural powers to attain the full perfection of his being, and consequently deny the necessity of faith, of the Sacraments, etc. as though modern science, the discovery of the X-rays, the inventions of Edison and Marconi were enough for the happiness of man.

There are on the other hand, those who say that when the Son of God shed his divine Blood on the Cross, He effected the redemption of mankind so completely that all we have to do is to lean upon Him by faith alone, without any work of co-operation on our part. Hence we hear so much about justification by faith; hence also so much ribald abuse of the Sacraments, of fasting, of penance. A man may have a thousand deeds of murder and impurity on his soul; he may have injured his neighbor in many ways and have enriched himself upon the spoils of his dishonesty, "let him believe in the Lord," they say, "and he is saved." Let him go to a camp-meeting and there work himself into a state of excitement and cry: "I believe in the Lord," then he is an elect, he needs not shed a tear of sorrow, but only believe in the Lord. This is a smooth and remarkably easy doctrine. If it only led to Heaven, it would be a sweet and easy way by which we could enjoy ourselves here in the indulgence of every vile passion, afterwards lean on the Lord and then get into Heaven.

Between these two extremes, one of unbelief the other of over fervent misguided faith, stands the Holy Catholic Church saying: Sin is in the world, we are all sinners. Jesus